

WHEELER RESIDENCE

The turning of the 20th century witnessed an attitude in domestic architecture which saw a meeting of the seemingly opposite ideals of the Victorian and Classical approaches to design. Firms like that of the Olmsteads designed entire communities which were characterized by natural settings that were entranced by landscaping and buildings that were covered with natural color wood shingles but which also often exhibited the proper qualities of the classical orders. In the Baltimore area, Roland Park, and Sudbrook Park stand as immensely important examples of this trend.

There were undoubtedly immediate spin-offs and in Ruxton, Mt. Washington and Towson one can find buildings, indeed entire blocks and sub-divisions showing the same mode of design. The Wheeler Residence and its neighbors on the 300 block of W. Pennsylvania Ave. are examples of this same attitude and it is the most classically oriented. In its detailing one sees gables that are pediments, palladian windows, doric porch columns and interior elements like mantle pieces with fluted ionic columnettes, and sways-and-garlands.

At the same time, however, the fishscale shingles and Gothic window tracery or the "living hall" plan are definite Victorian elements that give this house a feeling of the Queen Anne style.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wheeler Residence

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

304 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Robert DiCicco

Telephone #: 823-5400

STREET & NUMBER

209 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC New Courts Building

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1533

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Spring, 1978</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wheeler residence is only one of several in an entire block of homes that should be recorded. It was examined briefly on Dec. 21, 1977 in order to assist the property owner, a citizens group and planning officials in reaching a decision about its adaptive reuse as a semi-commercial structure.

There is no doubt about the house being architecturally and historically significant. There appears to have been a large expansion of Towson West of the Courthouse in the first decades of this century, and for five or six blocks along any of the streets that run West one can find stylish houses that show many of the characteristics of nearby Roland Park. That fashionable community may be seen as a contemporary to this neighborhood and there is some likelihood that Roland Park had a big influence on building in the Baltimore area.

The influence of the Colonial Revival can be seen in this building as evidenced by the use of classical motifs on both the interior and exterior. The palladian windows seen in the South dormer and West gable, the doric columns of the porch and the elaborate mantelpieces inside with fluted ionic columnettes, garlands, swags, etc. are among these. There are also some typically Victorian carry-overs that appear and these include the suggestion of Gothic tracery in the South dormer and the use of fishscale shingles on the roof. A particular element of the very popular Queen Anne mode was the "living hall" which is also found in this house.

The overall appearance of this house is that of a symmetrical block two bays wide and four bays deep. It is a two 3/4 story frame dwelling with a pointed hipped roof. The exterior is covered with clapboards. A single story porch wraps around the Southeast corner covering most of those two sides. The building rests on a full stone basement which rises about two feet above the ground.

The house is entered by a door in the East bay of the South facade. This side hall entrance is flanked by sidelights but no transom. The door and the sidelights contain small rectangular panes of glass with beveled edges. The first floor plan provides for a living-hall and kitchen on the East side of the building and double parlors on the West. The hall contains the entrance, an open dog-leg stairs with a landing about five steps from the bottom, and enough room for several large pieces of furniture. The South parlor was presumably the sitting room and it contains a full ceiling-to-floor window in the South wall, and an elaborate mantle piece with a mirror supported by fluted columns. The North parlor was probably used as a dining area (the two rooms are connected by a double doorway) and it has an equally elaborate mantle on its interior wall.

There are several bedrooms to each of the two floors above. The third level is characterized by the low sloping ceilings that result from the hipped roof. The plate levels in these rooms are higher than the typical half-story but not as high as in the other rooms of the house. This level has been adapted for an apartment and contains a kitchen with early 20th century fixtures.

A full stone basement was observed with the heavy central pier that is characteristic to this area.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1533

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The turning of the 20th century witnessed an attitude in domestic architecture which saw a meeting of the seemingly opposite ideals of the Victorian and Classical approaches to design. Firms like that of the Olmsteads designed entire communities which were characterized by natural settings that were entranced by landscaping and buildings that were covered with natural color wood shingles but which also often exhibited the proper qualities of the classical orders. In the Baltimore area, Roland Park and Sudbrook Park stand as immensely important examples of this trend.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Spring 1978
TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH for WHEELER RESIDENCE

Liber 2103, Folio 195 April 8, 1952

Grantor: Evelyn E. Grolock

Grantee: Charles B. Wheeler & wife

"Beginning...first...at a point on the north side of Pennsylvania Ave. 90' West of northwest corner of Bosley and Pennsylvania Aves.... North 10'...150' to South.

Beginning...second...end of line measured 100' northwesterly along northeast side of Pennsylvania Ave. from a stone set in...ground at northwesternmost intersection...Pennsylvania and Bosley...East 60' to place of beginning...known as #304 W. Pennsylvania Ave."

Liber 554, Folio 497 May 29, 1922

Grantor: Clarence A. Singer

Grantee: George F. Wheeler et. al.

Will-44, Folio 441 December 4, 1950

George G. Wheeler to Rosalie W. Gilbert, Albert A. Wheeler, Charles B. Wheeler, E. Joseph Wheeler, & E. W. Yeable.

Liber 504, Folio 15 July 11, 1918

Grantor: Rose L. Stack et. al.

Grantee: George G. Wheeler

Liber 298, Folio 230 June 11, 1906

Grantor: Arthur B. Bosley et. al.

Grantee: Rose L. Stack

"Beginning...first...line measured 100' Northwesterly..."

Liber 480, Folio 75 April 21, 1916

Grantor: J. Lindsay Clark & wife

Grantee: Rose L. Stack

Liber 459, Folio 358 March 23, 1916

Grantor: Arthur L. Bosley et. al.

Grantee: J. Lindsay Clark

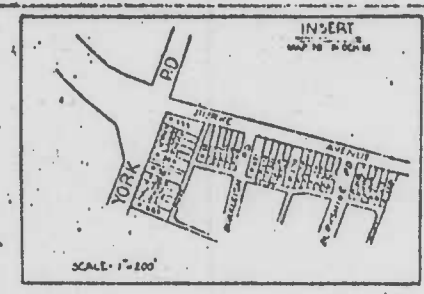
Lot #5 Plat # 1/326 Grafton M. Bosley Surveyed 1891

Will- 12, Folio 111

Grafton M. Bosley...empowered...A.L. Bosley & R. N. Pleasants the trustees...sell or otherwise dispose...

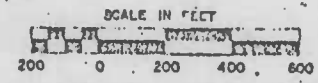
Plat Book 1/326 Lot #5 Grafton M. Bosley

Wheeler Residence
BA-1533



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MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

TOWSON
SCALE 1"=200'



DEPT. OF ASSESSMENT & TAXATION
TOWSON, MARYLAND
MADE BY THE
BUREAU OF MAPS
AND PLANS
DIVISION
1947



BA-1533

WHEELER HOUSE
S.E.

W. NIELD
9/78



BA-1533

WHEELER HOUSE

S. W. CORNER

W. NIELD

9/78